Old Court House
Johnstown
Fulton County
New York

HABS No. NY-3139

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New York

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

COURT HOUSE
Johnstown, Fulton County, New York

Owner: Fulton County

Date of erection: 1772

Architect: Samuel Fuller

Builder: Sir William Johnson

Additional data:

Samuel Fuller, architect of Schenectady, was also the
architect of several other buildings for Sir William. This
building served the county of Tryon as jail-court house
from 1772 to 1784 and the county of Montgomery from 1784
to 1836, when the county seat was moved to Fonda. In 1838
Fulton County was formed, and this jail-court house has
since been used as such. The laying of the corner stone on
June 26, 1772, was quite an event. Britishers, Hollanders,
Palatine, and Mohawk warriors attended; Sir William Johnson
with British officers and soldiers added brilliancy to the
occasion, and over all the group waved the British flag.

On October 26, 1775, the Tryon County Revolutionary
Committee inquired of Sir William Johnson "if he would
hinder or interrupt the Committee to make use of the same
public house to our want and service in the common cause."
He, in reply, claimed the building and property until he
should be refunded L 700 which he had advanced toward the
construction. Congress, however, was informed that Sir
William had conveyed the property to the county.

The Court House was built of brick. The brick were
brought from England and transferred to a sloop at New
York for Albany from whence they were carried by wagons to
Johnstown. This and the county jail were commenced at the
same time, and the legislature in 1774 appropriated L 1600
for their completion. On the octagonal tower on the
Court House is a triangle made from a large iron bar, which
is struck with a hammer when court is called together.

References:
        Reid's The Mohawk Valley, p. 206
        Greene's The Old Mohawk Turnpike, pp. 118-120.